

The Beacon

OCTOBER 2014



GOOD NEWS from

United Congregational Church of Westerly

United Church of Christ, Pawcatuck, CT

Sunday Worship ~ 9:30 am

FROM THE PASTOR ...

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”
Isaiah 43:18-19

These are the words from Scripture with which we ended the first of our All Church Meetings about Church Growth this past Tuesday evening. When Peter Saros, our consultant, let me know the day before that some sort of brief prayer service is how he recommended we end this first gathering, I knew exactly what I would do and which text I would read – this one from Isaiah. I explained to the group here on Tuesday that this text is so appropriate to our situation right now. As we move forward into this intentional church growth process there is no question that this is so very different from anything we have done before. That’s why this text from Isaiah is so very appropriate because these were Isaiah’s words to the Hebrew people as they were returning to rebuild their beloved Jerusalem after decades of captivity in Babylon. Jerusalem was in ruins and, while they had

permission to rebuild, they had no idea how to do it since the only thing they had received from the Persian king was their freedom.

Leaky roofs and bees nested in the portico overhang would have been welcome blessings to these ancient Hebrews since that would mean enough of a structure existed that these problems were there. Instead, they faced crumbled walls and ramshackle houses if any existed at all. The Temple was barely a shadow of its former glory, stripped of all its richness and fittings. And yet Isaiah was telling them to take heart! Isaiah was telling them to stop focusing on the past and get ready for a whole new future where anything was possible. Most importantly, Isaiah was reminding them that it was not they themselves doing this new thing. It was God doing a new thing in their midst, a new thing already underway! They just had to join in as best as they were able, each in their own unique way.

So it is with us! Those of us able to be here at the meeting this past week left with some exciting new ideas bouncing around in our heads! We left thinking about new possibilities and fresh approaches to old problems and concerns. We left, anxious to see what happens as this exciting “new thing” takes root and starts to grow and flourish in our midst. There’s more to come and we need everyone to be a part of this unfolding new thing in our midst. The next step is our next meeting with the consultant which is scheduled for Monday, October 20, 6-8pm in Fellowship Hall. We’ll be looking for you! Let me know if you need a ride or child care and we’ll make it happen! And by all means, come with your questions as well as your hopes and your dreams! We need them and we need you to move forward into the future of our wonderful church.

God is about to do a new thing right here, right now, right in our own church! How cool is that....

Rev. Ruth

Mission Memos

THANK YOU to *everyone* for providing the **WARM Center meal** in **September** by giving donations to the Deacons Emergency Fund. For **October 12** the *Kitchen Committee & Women's Fellowship* will provide the meal. We appreciate your generosity.



The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC) has requested our assistance in **October** with ***cans of baked beans and clam chowder.*** Please bring your items to worship on or before Sunday, **October 12** and we'll get them to the PNC!

Thanks for all your help! Please speak to any member of the Missions Committee with your ideas and questions – *Sandi Davis, Melissa Stratton, Audrey Steinetz, Dixie Lufbery, Peter Hainsworth, Jenny Brummund, or Christina Brummund.*

Neighbors In Need

“Imagining another world where literacy is no longer a concern!”

The UCC "Neighbors in Need" offering will be collected on **October 5**. This special mission offering of the UCC supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM), to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Please give generously.



October Birthdays

1 Heather Stratton	19 Bobby Cornell
1 Judy Stratton	20 Joan Edmond
7 Erin Gray	23 Barbara Colby
9 Sheryl Caswell	24 Brooke Foster
10 Melissa Stratton	27 Gordon Ainsworth

Happy Anniversary to:

Erwin & Alice Dessaulles – 10-26-58

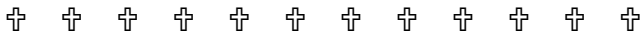
Please add in your special days by calling the church office!

BOOKS ON THE BEACH IS NOW... BOOKS IN THE PARLOR!



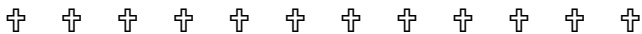
**Monday, October 27,
@ 6:30 pm**

This fall and winter we have decided to meet about every six weeks. The next book we are reading together is **THREE CUPS OF TEA** by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. This book with its focus on alternative pathways to peace in the Middle East powder keg is particularly relevant these days so we hope you'll join us!



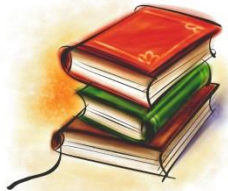
Diaconate Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name & Telephone</u>
Oct 5	Lynn Murray (401 539-7578)
Oct 12	Ane Torres (860) 599-5572
Oct 19	Becky Morrone (401) 596-1070
Oct 26	Bethany Foster (401) 539-4003



Deacons' Notes:

At the last Deacons' meeting, we were discussing a way to memorialize Rev. Ray Bradley and all he meant to our congregation. A few of the ideas included a planting on the grounds, naming Fellowship Hall in his honor, or creating a framed plaque of the benediction he always concluded the service with. We would love to hear from you about these or other suggestions you may have. Please speak to any deacon.



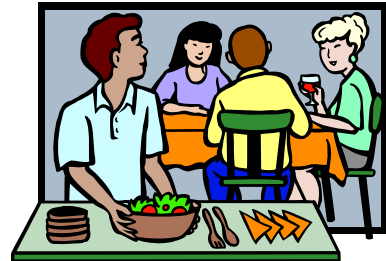
*What are you doing on
OCTOBER 25?
How about representing
our church at
SUPER SATURDAY!*

Consider investing some of your time in attending an incredible learning opportunity being sponsored jointly by the RI and MA Conferences of the UCC that will take place in Framingham, MA. Flyers with details are available in the narthex. Worship, workshops, a guest speaker from the National UCC and resources galore on issues critical to the local church will make up the day. Speak with Rev. Ruth with any questions. At least 2 folks from our church are going so if you're interested, there is someone to ride with! Registrations due mid-October.

MEATLOAF

DINNER & MUSIC

**Saturday, October 11th
5:30 pm**



*Sponsored by Women's Fellowship
and the Kitchen Committee*

***Meatloaf, twice baked potatoes,
vegetables & dessert***

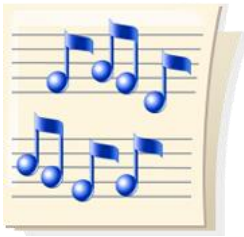
COST: Adults - \$12.00
Children under 10: \$6.00

*Come and enjoy a delicious meal
with your family, friends, and church family
and have good music to listen to also!*



***Watch for details
on the upcoming
2nd Annual ALMOST
IRON CHEF COMPETITION
Saturday, January 24th,
2015***

CHOIR NEWS



“Sing to the Lord a New Song!” All are invited to the next open meeting of the Music Committee on Sunday, October 5 @ 11 am in the parlor

Exciting changes are already underway in our Music Program for the year ahead and we want you to be a part of it! Join us at this special meeting and let's see what happens when we consider all the ways we might be able to “sing to the Lord a new song!” Please speak with Doug Brummund or Brenda Cornell with any questions.

Some of the changes already in place:

- *Choir rehearsal on Sunday mornings from 8:30 am – 9:15 am!*
- *An optional Choir “extra sing” on Thursdays at 7:00 pm*
- *“Drop-in” chair in the choir loft so you can jump in and sing a favorite anthem*
- *No Choir Robes!*
- *More to come....*



Everyone is always welcome at SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER on Thursdays at 6:00 pm

The Sweet Hour of Prayer group gathers every Thursday, this year preceded by a “**Mini Bible Study**” at **5:30 pm**. Folks are invited to come to either or both. Prayer requests for the Prayer Group are always welcome too if you can't be with us. Hope to see you then!

Women's Fellowship Potluck Supper



Women's Fellowship meets next on Wednesday, **October 6 @ 6:00 pm** for a *Potluck Supper, Packing Party, and a discussion on the upcoming meatloaf dinner.*

Thanks to all the generous donations to **Operation Christmas Child**, and the donation from Carole Cravinho of pre-decorated boxes, we are ready to pack our boxes for delivery to needy children. Once we know how many we have packed, we will be asking for sponsors for the shipping -- \$7.00 per box. If you'd like to know which country the box(es) you are sponsoring end up at, there will be instructions on how to pay shipping on line.

We hope you'll join us and bring a friend! We appreciate the Men's Club sharing the Kitchen and space with us on October 6th.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

Our next **Church Council meeting** will be held on Sunday, **October 19th at 11:00 am** in the Parlor. Carole Cravinho will be accepting donations for lunch – *fried chicken and salad!* All Council Members please submit your reports for the meeting to Cathy Gray by **October 5th**. ***Electronic submissions are preferred.*** (Cathy's email address is graygc@mindspring.com) Thank you.

REMINDER!

PLEASE sign up to host Fellowship Time after worship every Sunday. The sign-up sheet is next to the Flower Chart. Thank you.



Please pray for the following members and friends of our church. **HOIR**

Ann Brown	Barbara
Madelyn Stratton	Sandi Davis
Fred	Catherine
Jeff	Jim
Millie Silver	Debbie
Shirley Harrington	Lisa
Beverly & Family	Carole Kus
John Dillon	Brian Madill
Sheryl	David Jones
Doris	Jennifer Clancon
Eugene Ravenelle	Kim Brown
David Stratton	Beverly
Karen & Bill	Doris Whitehead
Scott & his parents	Vivian Roode
David Hall	

If you would like anyone added or removed from this list for the next newsletter, please call the office or let one of our deacons know. Thank you.

OUR STAFF

Pastor: The Rev. Ruth Shilling Hainsworth
Organist: Darla Rines
Sunday School Contact Persons: Tanya Sylvestre and Susan Lanphere
Secretary: Susan Perreault
Sexton: Debby Johnson

CHURCH OFFICE SPECIFICS

Mailing Address: 9 Castle Hill Road
 Pawcatuck, CT 06379
Telephone # & FAX: 860-599-1226
E-mail: uccwesterly@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.uccwesterly.org
Office Hours: Monday, Thursday, & Friday
 from 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

CE NEWS



- Sunday School during the month of October on the 5th, 19th and 26th!
- **Family Worship** on October 12
- **FFF Outing** to a local corn maze after church on **October 26th**. Details to follow!
- **Crafts Night and Potluck** to get ready for the youth group booth at the Bazaar on **November 14th** – All welcome and we do need everyone!
- **Lock-in** at the church in the planning phases for January!

Please support RI UCC OUTDOOR MINISTRY & **Summer Camp for our Children, Youth and Families at Irons Homestead** by participating in the **6-Hour Fundraiser** being held on **Sunday, November 9**

You are invited to participate by sponsoring Jennifer Geary, our Director at Irons Homestead, who will walk/run in the *RI 6-Hour Ultra Marathon* being held in Warwick, RI. **Our goal is to raise a minimum of \$12,000 to insure modest stipends for our counselors and nurses.** We plan to start the camping season able to assure parents and campers that we have the appropriate staff in place for the entire summer.

No pledge amount is too small or too big. You can sponsor Jennifer for an amount per mile or per kilometer! You can name a maximum amount that you are willing to contribute or offer a set donation. Peter Hainsworth has been designated as our Outdoor Ministry liaison who will manage the pledges and donations.

More information is available at the RICUCC website: RICUCC.org – click on “Camp and Retreat”.